

reason and conscience, wisely articulating his credo that we have got to learn to live and understand each other, or we run the risk of shamefully reaping the grapes of wrath from those who have been left out.

Mr. Earl T. Shinhoster truly exemplified a calm but reasoned leadership whose courage and wisdom appealed to our noblest character as a nation. While he will be missed by all of us, we will celebrate the gift of his life and thank God for sending him to grace our paths at a time when we most needed him.

My pride in sharing his friendship is only exceeded by my eternal gratitude for all that he has sacrificed on our behalf. This is the magnificent legacy by which we will honor his memory.

RECOGNIZING 225TH BIRTHDAY OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

SPEECH OF

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 2000

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, it is with a tremendous sense of pride that I rise to congratulate the United States Army on its 225th Birthday. For 225 years, our men and women have answered the call and served this Nation, where they were needed and when they were needed. For over two centuries members of the Army have fought and died on distant shores to ensure that not only Americans remain free, but more importantly, to also protect the freedoms of other people.

I've felt the camaraderie, been part of the tradition, and felt the hardship of service in the Army. There is no more noble profession, and there are no words that can suitably honor the men and women of the Army who served in the past and continue to serve today. Today members of the Army serve in Europe, Korea, Bosnia, Kosovo and a hundred other locations far away from their homes, friends and families.

However distant, whatever the challenge, for 225 years, the United States Army has fought the Nation's wars and served its country honorably in peace. I commend the men and women of the Army, and again, congratulate them on this very special birthday.

GRAPHIC INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2000

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, June 23, 2000 the Graphic International Communications 2000 meeting will commence in Orlando, Florida. Graphic International Communications is an international marketing organization representing pioneering companies in seventeen nations around the world.

Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the Florida Congressional Delegation, it is my honor to welcome those participating in the Graphic

International Communications annual conference to Florida.

Serving as the host of this event is Merchandising & Marketing Corporation. As a corporation located in my Congressional District, I am proud that they have been chosen to host this important conference. In fact, this is the second time that the Merchandising & Marketing Corporation has been chosen to host this event.

I congratulate them on their selection, and I am sure that the Graphic International Communications annual meeting will be a major success.

DEBT REDUCTION ACT

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2000

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, deficit spending has run rampant for too long. The federal debt has ballooned to nearly \$6 trillion. With this legislation for the first time since 1917 we are reversing this trend.

Uncle Sam will actually begin to pay off our \$6 trillion credit card bill. Paying off our huge debt should be a top priority, not an afterthought.

Under current law, any money left over at the end of the year is used to reduce the debt. This bill makes debt reduction a priority by setting aside the money up front.

Reducing the public debt is good for the country. It increases national saving and makes it more likely that the economy will continue growing strong. American families benefit through lower interest rates on mortgages and other loans, more jobs, better wages, and ultimately higher living standards.

Reducing the public debt strengthens the government's fiscal position by reducing interest costs and promoting economic growth. This makes it easier for the government to afford its future budget obligations.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBIN HAYES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4577) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes;

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Chairman, I cannot support any amendment to FY 2001 Labor-Health and Human Services-Education bill that will cut funding to Impact Aid. Impact Aid is a crucial element of the basic financial support for

schools that support our military and Native American children. In some cases, Impact Aid supplies a critical portion of school districts' operating budgets. In Cumberland County Schools in North Carolina, Impact Aid represents more than \$2 million of their school budget. Mr. Chairman, we have a responsibility to assist those school districts impacted by a Federal presence. I encourage my colleagues to join me in voting against any amendments that would threaten the Impact Aid Program.

HONORING THE HISTORY OF O'FALLON, ILLINOIS

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2000

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, today I'd like my colleagues to join me in honoring the history of one of the oldest communities in my congressional district.

The City of O'Fallon, Illinois was named in honor of Colonel John O'Fallon. He was a soldier, a businessman, a real estate owner and a public minded citizen. His father, James O'Fallon was a physician who came to this country shortly before the Revolutionary War and served as a surgeon in George Washington's Army. After the war, he went to Louisville, Kentucky where he met and married Frances Clark, a sister of George Rogers Clark and William Clark, army officers, who became famous in the development of the Mississippi Valley.

John's father died when he was a child and he was reared and educated by his mother and uncles. With his army background, he became a soldier. He fought in the War of 1812 where he rose to the rank of Captain. After the war ended, O'Fallon became assistant Indian Agent to his Uncle William Clark of the Lewis and Clark expedition. Later he became a contractor, buying and selling Army supplies. He invested his money and became involved with the expanding railroad industry across the nation. He promoted the Missouri Pacific railroad, as well as the Wabash and the B&O railroads. His involvement with railroads and the purchase of lands lead him to become the namesake of both O'Fallon, Illinois and O'Fallon, Missouri. His purchase of lands in an area north of St. Louis also lead to the development of the community of O'Fallon Park. He gave generously to St. Louis University and Washington University. He also formed an institute which became the forerunner of today's St. Louis High Schools and the City's public library.

O'Fallon, Illinois was formed around the depot and a water tank for the B&O railroad. A newly replicated depot stands near the site of the beginnings of this community. O'Fallon was incorporated as a village in 1874 and in 1905 became a town. O'Fallon's early growth was due to the large coal mining industry in the region. O'Fallon was also home to major businesses like Willard Stove, Tiedeman Milling and the Independent Engineering Company. O'Fallon also had abundant agricultural land which supported large farming operations.

Today, O'Fallon is a community of 20,000 people. It continues to grow because of its proximity to Scott Air Force Base and St. Louis. It sits astride 1-64 and boasts three interchange exits where large commercial and retail developments are clustered. O'Fallon also is home to the O'Fallon Township High School, which is recognized as one of the top high schools in the region. The high school is also home to the Marching Panthers Band, which has won several national awards and is a regular participant in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade in New York City.

The City of O'Fallon continues the growth and development envisioned by Captain O'Fallon. The rail line he developed, continues to run through the community delivering vital commerce and supplies to areas to the west.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the community and the people of the City of O'Fallon.

DEATH TAX ELIMINATION ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. HELEN CHENOWETH-HAGE

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2000

Mrs. CHENOWETH-HAGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the fundamental unfairness of the Death Tax. This is a tax that preys upon small business owners, farmers, women, minorities, and families in mourning. There is no question. Our current system of death taxation is simply inexcusable. No family or child should be forced to pay for the death of a loved one. Yet, this is precisely what happens.

One of the founding principles that our forefathers invoked when founding our nation was that of "No taxation without representation." In a perverse way, the Death Tax is quite possibly the clearest violation of this principle that has ever been passed into law. For, if you are dead, who can possibly represent you?

This is a tax that attacks the very foundation of small business. There are some in this body from the other party who often claim that this tax only affects the rich. Well, that is simply untrue. I wonder how many Democrats actually believe that small family farms are rich? How many cattlemen are rich? How many restaurant owners are rich? These are the people who this ghoulish tax affects.

These are our brothers, sisters, sons, daughters, and parents. These people are our neighbors. These people are ordinary American citizens. The truth is, those who actually have the money can actually afford to find ways to circumvent this tax. Those small businessmen who live on the financial margins cannot.

Furthermore, the Death Tax acts as a disincentive to saving. Who would want to save for their children their whole life only to have up to forty percent of their savings confiscated at death? Under the current policy, vacations and fungible assets actually provide a higher return than saving your money for your children. This is outrageous.

Some on the other side of the aisle cry, "The sky is falling!" when the elimination of

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

this onerous tax is mentioned. Who are they kidding? The sky is nowhere close to falling. Since 1940, inflation adjusted tax revenues of the United States government have risen by 2000%!

The fact remains, eliminating the Death Tax will actually help families, small businessmen, and the economy. For instance, according to a WEFA Group U.S. Macroeconomic Model and the Washington University Macro Model, the U.S. economy would have increased its output by another eleven billion dollars a year had we eliminated the Death Tax in 1996. Furthermore, America could well have seen increases of an average of eight billion dollars in personal income levels if we had done this.

Mr. Speaker, it's time to end the Death Tax. Let's give it a wake and bury it this year. The fetid stink of this tax is simply too much to put up with any longer.

HIGHER EDUCATION TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 12, 2000

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, the following message is from Steve Nisenfeld, father of Bryan Nisenfeld for whom Bryan's law is named and which was incorporated into H.R. 4504.

The family and friends of Bryan Nisenfeld wish to express their extreme gratitude to all the advocates, aides, Congressmen and staffers who worked diligently on Bryan's Law. We firmly believe this bill is very important. Its passage will provide increased protection for missing students who might otherwise be overlooked by the university's staff, faculty or security force. In the case of Bryan Nisenfeld, there was a breach of security wherein Bryan Nisenfeld went unreported as missing by Roger Williams University for six agonizing days though administrators at the university were aware of threats made against his life.

University administrators, by their own admission, overlooked the threatening phone calls Bryan received prior to his disappearance. This response by Roger Williams University denied Bryan's family an opportunity to intervene on Bryan's behalf and maybe save his life. At the very least, Roger Williams University, by its failure to report Bryan missing on a timely basis denied trained professionals time to immediately launch a search for him. We know that time is an essential ingredient used by law enforcement in locating a person. The actions of Roger Williams University officials delayed this important process.

The Nisenfelds hope that Bryan's Law will prevent other parents from experiencing the pain and anguish the Nisenfelds suffered. This law requires all universities and colleges implement policies that protect missing students. It also provides information to parents and students searching for a safe college to attend. The Nisenfelds hope and pray the law continues through the legislative channels and wins approval in the Senate. Bryan Nisenfeld was a caring, giving individual who rallied be-

hind social causes. The Nisenfelds believe passage of this bill speaks for Bryan's character. We thank you all. Bryan Nisenfeld's memory will forever live on. Thank you all.

FLAG DAY

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2000

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, on Flag Day, to remind all Americans to pause and pay their respects to the banner that has come to symbolize the freedom and liberty that we hold so dear.

June 14, 2000, marks the 223rd birthday of the U.S. Flag. In 1777, less than a year after the signing of the Declaration of Independence, and more than a decade before the Constitution was finalized, the Continental Congress adopted the Stars and Stripes pattern for the national flag. Flag Day was first celebrated in the year of the flag's centennial, 1877. After that, many citizens and organizations advocated the adoption of a national day of commemoration for the U.S. Flag. However, it was not until 1949 that President Harry Truman signed legislation officially making Flag Day a day for us to remember what the Stars and Stripes stand for, and honor those who gave their lives for them.

The brother of one such brave soldier from my district contacted me recently to relate to me the great patriotism and love for his country of his fallen family member, Joseph G. Serketich, who was killed in a World War II battle in Metz, France, on November 17, 1944. During his basic training at Camp Swift, TX, he sent a letter to the Father of his church back home in Wisconsin that exemplifies how those soldiers felt about their flag, and reminds all of us of its true meaning.

On July 31, 1942, Pvt. Serketich wrote of what he felt was the army's most moving ceremony, the end of the day retreat. His words ring as true today as they did when they were written:

There the men all stand in formation, facing the flag of our country. While the colors are being lowered the men stand at attention and present arms. . . The thrill comes when one stares at the flag there high in the sky, he wonders what is it there for. What does it mean? Liberty, freedom, happiness and freedom of religion. . . I will fight to defend it whenever an enemy tries to take it from us. I will die for it as Christ died for me. . . All America should be proud of its flag, not of its material beauty, but for what it stands—life, liberty and happiness—to be also proud of its soldiers who fought to make it, and who fight to preserve it.

The Serketich family also sent me a poem entitled "I Am Your Flag". These excerpts eloquently remind us all of what this hallowed national symbol really stands for:

I was born on June 14, 1777.

I am more than just a cloth shaped into a design.

I have led your sons into battle from Valley Forge to the bloody jungles in Vietnam. I walk in silence with each of your honored dead to their resting place

My red stripes symbolize the blood spilled in defense of this glorious nation. My White